

# **CONGRESSMAN JOE WILSON**

## **Application Procedure**

### **For Service Academy Nomination**

#### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Applicants must be at least 17 years of age, but not past their 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday as of July 1 of the year of admission to an Academy; must be unmarried, not pregnant and have no legal obligation to support children or other dependents; must be a citizen of the United States; must be men and women of good moral character who are trustworthy, emotionally stable, and motivated.

#### **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS:**

Applicants must be residents of the 2nd Congressional District which currently encompasses the following counties: Allendale, Barnwell, Beaufort, Hampton, Jasper, Lexington, as well as parts of Aiken, Calhoun, Orangeburg, and Richland.

Note to Military Dependents: If you are a military dependent, you are required by law to apply for a nomination in your legal domicile.

#### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**

Applicants apply to our office in the spring semester of their Junior year of high school. Please pay special attention to the deadline listed further down in the text.

You are also encouraged to apply to Senators Graham and DeMint. Keep in mind that you will have to maintain current and complete files at each office to which you apply. There is no sharing of information on candidates' files between the offices.

#### **◆ WHERE TO SEND YOUR APPLICATION AND DOCUMENTATION:**

All parts of the application packet should be mailed to:

Congressman Joe Wilson  
Attn: Academies Coordinator  
1700 Sunset Blvd., Suite 1  
West Columbia, SC 29169

Please DO NOT mail anything to Congressman Wilson's Washington D.C. Office as the Post Office screens for anthrax and this delays the timely delivery of the mail.

#### **◆ DEADLINE:**

The deadline for all required information to be received in Congressman Wilson's Midlands District office in order for application packets to be complete is no later than **October 30, 2009.**

It is very important that all parts of your application packet be received in Congressman Wilson's Midlands District Office by the deadline. Incomplete packages will not be considered and it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all required documentation is complete and received on time.

It is suggested that nothing be left to chance. You are encouraged to call or email Congressman Wilson's Academies Coordinator (name and address at the end of this document) to check the status of your file. It is also strongly recommended that you send in all information as early as possible and not wait until the last minute. If you have any questions, concerns, or problems, please contact Congressman Wilson's Academies Coordinator immediately.

#### ◆ **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:**

Even when a young man or woman receives a nomination from a Member of Congress to attend a U.S. Service Academy, he or she must still meet the various standards of the academies--among these are the academic requirements as outlined in the pre-candidate brochures from the Academies.

All of the academies require that you take either the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or American College Testing Program (ACT). The nomination and admission process is rigorous and competition for available slots keeps the SAT and ACT scores of those admitted well above average.

It is not advisable that you wait until your senior year to take these examinations but rather you should complete one of them prior to the summer before your senior year. Arrangements to take the test can be made through your high school guidance counselor or by writing directly to the College Entrance Examination Board.

#### ◆ **REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:**

When returning your completed application packet to Congressman Wilson's office, you will be asked to submit the following information:

- **Congressman Wilson's two page application form**
- **Test Scores** – To be considered for a nomination to an Academy, the applicant must take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and/or the American College Testing Program (ACT). It is strongly recommended that both the SAT and ACT tests be taken to see which one measures the educational background most favorably. The deadline for application for these tests is usually about one month in advance of the test date. Applicants are advised to check carefully with their guidance counselors.

So that Congressman Wilson may receive your scores expeditiously, the Education Testing Service (the College Entrance Examination Board) has assigned a code number, 5674, to be entered on your form as you would the code for a college or university to which you want your scores sent. Your use of this code will be helpful and greatly appreciated.

- **High School Transcript** – a legible copy of your high school transcript must be included with your application.

- **Photograph** – you must submit one recent wallet size photograph of yourself – be sure to print your name on the back of the photo.
- **Letters of recommendation** – Three letters of recommendation are required. One letter should be from a principal, teacher or coach. All letters of recommendation with a return address will be acknowledged. Letters of recommendation should be sent to Congressman Wilson's Midlands District office in West Columbia. Note: If the letters are being mailed separately, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all three letters are received by Congressman Wilson by the application deadline.
- **Personal Essay** – you are required to submit a personal essay (minimum 500 words) on what motivates you to attend a service academy and the goals you have for your military career. You must sign and date your essay.

### **THE INTERVIEW:**

Applicants who have a completed application packet in our office by the deadline of **October 30, 2009** will be interviewed by Congressman Wilson's Academies Advisory Panel which is comprised of individuals throughout our ten county area including active and retired military, educators, business persons, etc. The interviews are usually held in late November/early December. Eligible applicants will be notified of the date and time of their interview.

### **THE NOMINATION:**

Congressman Wilson uses the Competitive method, which is the method used by 80% of Members of Congress. Under this method, Congressman Wilson can submit an unranked slate of up to ten nominees for each vacancy. Each year he usually has at least one vacancy per academy. The academies have their own selection board which then ranks our ten nominees in order of merit in accordance with the specific academy regulations. The most highly qualified nominee is selected for an offer of appointment to fill that one vacancy. The other nine nominees then go into a national "pool" where they compete with other applications for other available slots. Note: A nomination by Congressman Wilson does not guarantee an appointment to an Academy.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**March 2009 to November 2009**

Congressman will accept letters of interest from applicants and send out application packets

**October 30, 2009**

Deadline for returning completed application packets to Congressman's Midland's Office

**November/December 2009**

Interview period for Applicants who completed application by November 1 Deadline

**December 2009**

Congressman Wilson will announce 2<sup>nd</sup> District Nominations

**January 2010 to June 2010**

Appointments Announced by Academies

**July 2010**

Class begins at the Academies

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Mr. Preston Grisham  
Academies Coordinator  
1700 Sunset Blvd., Suite 1  
West Columbia, SC 29169**

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